

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1259

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN UNN

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0477

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH-ROMANIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

REF: MADRID 0574 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. SPANISH EMBOFFS TELL US THAT DECISION
FINALLY TO ESTABLISH FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS
A COMPLETELY ROMANIAN INITIATIVE WHICH, ONCE MADE,
PROCEEDED WITH STARTLING RAPIDITY AND EXTREME CORDIALITY.
THEY EXPLAIN ROMANIAN ABOUT-FACE AS DUE TO COMBINATION
OF PRE-BELGRADE CSCE PREPARATIONS AND INTERNAL CHANGES
IN SPAIN, WITH SUDDEN HASTE CAUSED BY GOR DESIRE TO MOVE
BEFORE YUGOSLAVS OR SOME OTHER EAST EUROPEAN STATE
DID. THEY ALSO BELIEVE PCE CHIEF CARRILLO MUST HAVE
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CLEARED DECISION. ROMANIAN CLANDESTINE RADIO CONTINUES
BROADCASTS TO SPAIN, BUT TONE HAS SOFTENED MARKEDLY.
NO FURTHER RUMORS OF ROMANIAN TRAINING OR OTHER
ASSISTANCE TO SPANISH GUERRILLA/TERRORISTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION JANUARY 25 WITH POL COUNS, SPANISH
MISSION POLOFF BASTARRECHE, SUPPLEMENTED BY CHIEF OF

MISSION GONZALEZ-CAMPO, DISCUSSED JANUARY 21
ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN
SPAIN AND ROMANIA. BOTH INSISTED INITIATIVE CAME
EXCLUSIVELY FROM ROMANIANS, SINCE SPANISH POSITION WAS
TO LEAVE BALL SQUARELY IN ROMANIAN COURT AFTER GOR
BROKE OFF NEARLY COMPLETED NEGOTIATIONS LAST YEAR.
ON AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 15, A SATURDAY, SPANISH DEUC
OFFICER IN MFA SUMMONED GONZALEZ-CAMPO TO STATE THAT
GOR WAS PREPARED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND
DESIRED TO DO SO IMMEDIATELY. ROMANIANS INSISTED ON
UTMOST SECRECY, AND CONSEQUENTLY VISIT OF FOREIGN
TRADE MINISTER JOSE LLADO FERNANDEZ-URRUTIA WAS
MOUNTED ON EXTREMELY SHORT NOTICE AS "CAMOFLAGE" FOR
SPANISH MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS
ANTONIO ELIAS MARTINENA WHO CONDUCTED ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS.
PARENTHETICALLY, MINISTER CONDUCTED NO BUSINESS
WHATSOEVER. SPANISH DELEGATION ARRIVED JANUARY 18,
RECEIVED "MOST IMPRESSIVE" ROMANIAN RED-CARPET
TREATMENT, AND BY JANUARY 20 AGREEMENT WAS READY FOR
SIGNATURE. NO PROBLEMS WERE ENCOUNTERED DURING
NEGOTIATIONS, AND AGREEMENT CONTAINS NO HIDDEN PRO-
VISIONS. GONZALEZ-CAMPO IS EXPECTED TO STAY ON AS
AMBASSADOR, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY MADRID.

3. ASKED TO EXPLAIN ABRUPT ROMANIAN ABOUT-FACE,
SPANIARDS PROFESSED IGNORANCE BUT SPECULATED IT HAD
MUCH TO DO WITH GOR PREPARATIONS FOR BELGRADE AND
CONTINUAL ROMANIAN LINE OF MAINTAINING RELATIONS WITH
"ALL" COUNTRIES. EXCEPTION OF SPAIN, A EUROPEAN COUNTRY
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AND SIGNER OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT, WAS TOO EGREGIOUS TO
BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE. IN ADDITION, SPANISH INTERNAL
SCENE, PARTICULARLY TALKS WITH OPPOSITION LEADERS, HAS
NOW MOVED TO POINT ACCEPTABLE TO EAST EUROPEAN STATES.
ROMANIA'S SUDDEN RUSH WAS EXPLAINED BY PRESENCE OF
YUGOSLAV AND BULGARIAN DELEGATIONS IN MADRID DISCUSSING
INTER ALIA QUESTION OF RELATIONS, AND ROMANIA'S "FETISH"
FOR BEING FIRST IN SUCH MATTERS. ASKED ABOUT DECEMBER
VISIT BY MIHNEA GHEORGHIU, PRESIDENT OF ACADEMY OF
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES AND SOME-TIME TROUBLE-
SHOOTER, TO ATTEND SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS,
EMBOFFS CLAIMED NO CONCRETE DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE
SINCE GHEORGHIU WAS HINTING ABOUT RELATIONS IN ONLY
MOST GENERAL AND VAGUE TERMS AND GOS INSISTED ON
CONCRETE PROPOSALS AFTER THEIR PREVIOUS UNHAPPY
EXPERIENCE WITH ROMANIANS. NEVERTHELESS, ALTHOUGH
THEY HAVE NO PROOF, SPANISH HERE ARE CONVINCED GOR
MUST HAVE CLEARED DECISION WITH SPANISH COMMUNIST
PARTY CHIEF SANTIAGO CARRILLO BEFORE APPROACHING GOS.

4. "RADIO ESPANA INDEPENDIENTE", A "CLANDESTINE" RADIO STATION IN ROMANIA BROADCASTING TO SPAIN, IS STILL ON THE AIR ALTHOUGH ROMANIAN OFFICIALS DENY ANY KNOWLEDGE OF IT. ACCORDING TO EMBOFFS, HOWEVER, ITS TONE HAS SOFTENED MARKEDLY IN LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. ADDITIONALLY, SPANISH INTERPRET REMARK BY FONMIN MACOVESCU AFTER AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED THAT "NOW WE CAN DISCUSS ALL MATTERS, EVEN THE MOST DELICATE" AS LEAVING DOOR OPEN FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSIONS OF RADIO. RUMORS OF POSSIBLE GOR TRAINING OR OTHER ASSISTANCE TO SPANISH GUERRILLAS/ TERRORISTS HAVE NOT BEEN HEARD FOR SOME MONTHS, AND EMBOFFS DENY ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH ACTIVITIES.

5. COMMENT: WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY MADRID'S EXCELLENT ANALYSIS (REFTTEL) THAT EVENTUAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WAS PROBABLY INEVITABLE.
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NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN STARTS AND FITS IN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP OVER MANY MONTHS, WE DETECT AN AUDIBLE SIGH OF RELIEF FROM BOTH SIDES THAT THIS PARTICULAR MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE IS FINALLY CONSUMATED.
BARNES

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